

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 and 11-18 under 35 USC 104(a) as being unpatentable over Hart et al '134 in view of Cardin Sr. '761. Claims 5 and 7-10 were rejected also under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hart '134 as modified by Cardin Sr. '761 in view of Johnson '106.

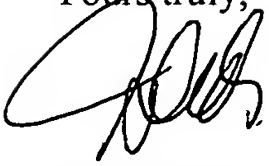
The Examiner stated in the office action that the features that the applicant relied on in distinguishing his invention from the prior art were not recited in the rejected claims. The applicant has now narrowed the claims so that the features of the hitch bar and security plug both being only the length of that part of the receiver tube that is outside the trailer frame, securing the hitch bar from the part it extends outside the trailer frame and security bar being of substantially solid metal are now written into the claims.

The applicant believes that these features make the invention patentable over the cited prior art.

CONCLUSION

By virtue of the amendments, this application is deemed patentable over the cited art. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw his rejections and allow this application to pass to issue. Alternatively, the applicant requests that this amendment be entered for the purpose of appeal.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Dodds', written over the closing 'Yours truly,'.

John Dodds

Attorney of the Applicant

Reg. No 45533

Cc. File

Robert Hart